

COVER SHEET

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

TITLE: *Savannah River Site High-Level Waste Tank Closure Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0303), Aiken, South Carolina.

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CONTACT: For additional information on this environmental impact statement (EIS), write or call:

Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer
U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office
Building 730B, Room 2418
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
Attention: Tank Closure EIS
Local and Nationwide Telephone: (800) 881-7292 Email: nepa@srs.gov

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For general information on DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, write or call:

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Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585-0119
Telephone: (202) 586-4600 or leave a message at (800) 472-2756

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ABSTRACT: DOE proposes to close the high-level waste (HLW) tanks at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, DOE Orders, and the *Industrial Wastewater Closure Plan for F- and H-Area High-Level Waste Tank Systems* (approved by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control), which specifies the management of residuals as waste incidental to reprocessing. The proposed action would begin after bulk waste removal has been completed. This EIS evaluates three alternatives regarding the HLW tanks at the SRS: the Stabilize Tanks Alternative (referred to as the Clean and Stabilize Tanks Alternative in the Draft EIS), the Clean and Remove Tanks Alternative, and the No Action Alternative. Under the Stabilize Tanks Alternative, the EIS considers three options for tank stabilization: Fill with Grout (Preferred Alternative), Fill with Sand, and Fill with Saltstone.

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Under each alternative (except No Action), DOE would close 49 HLW tanks and associated waste handling equipment including evaporators, pumps, diversion boxes, and transfer lines. Impacts are assessed primarily in the areas of water resources, air resources, public and worker health, waste management, socioeconomic impacts, and cumulative impacts.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: DOE issued the *High-Level Waste Tank Closure Draft Environmental Impact Statement* on November 24, 2000, and held a public comment period on the EIS through January 23, 2001. In preparing the Final EIS, DOE considered comments received via mail, fax, electronic mail, and transcribed comments made at public hearings held on Tuesday, January 9, 2001, in North Augusta, South Carolina, and on Thursday, January 11, 2001, in Columbia, South Carolina. Comments received and DOE's responses to those comments are found in Appendix D of this EIS.

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OPERATIONAL SECURITY: Due to increased concerns about operational security after the events of September 11, 2001, Appendix E, which contains detailed information on the location, dimensions, and contents of the HLW tanks, is for Official Use Only. It will be made available on request to those who have a need to review this information.

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